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Gibault Home (Ind)
Community Affairs File

1921-1981

Every Child Deserves A Chance

60th Anniversary

Gibault School

Gibault School for Boys

Terre Haute, Indiana

Sixty Years of Excellence in Child-Caring
Sponsored By Indiana Knights of Columbus

how we began. . .

On October 9, 1921, 20,000 people travelled to Terre Haute, Indiana, for the dedication of the new Gibault School for Boys. This event marked the realization of an idea conceived in 1909 by the Indiana Knights of Columbus which was to sponsor a much-needed "refuge for wayward boys."

The new school was located on the former Fred B. Smith estate just south of Terre Haute. Bishop Joseph Chartrand of Indianapolis appointed Rev. Michael Gorman the first director.

Within two months the "home" had already exceeded its capacity of 25 boys. So plans were made to build two new dormitory/classroom buildings. Following successful fund drives, Chartrand Hall was built in 1922 and Alerding Hall was completed in 1926.

EARLY BASKETBALL TEAM

OLD FISHING POND

The instant demand for Gibault's services soon dictated the need for a larger, more experienced professional staff. So in 1934, the Indiana K of C and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis asked the Brothers of Holy Cross from Notre Dame, Indiana, to assume the administration of the school and its program.

This transition marked the beginning of Gibault's "Holy Cross Era", a period of significant growth, improvement and expansion.

CHARTRAND HALL

THE SMITH HOUSE

CHARTRAND HALL GROUNDBREAKING - 1922

SHERER HALL GROUNDBREAKING

ORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

how we have grown. . .

FRONT SIGN

GROUP HOME

KNIGHTS HALL

KUNKLER HALL

GIBSON HALL

HOLY ANGELS CHAPEL

COUNSELING CENTER

ALERDING HALL

The first Holy Cross Brother/Director was Rupert Poudrier. When he and his staff arrived at Gibault School, they found 35 Indiana boys in residence. In 1936 Gibault opened its doors to boys from every Midwestern state. Within a few years Gibault's enrollment had grown to over 100 boys from throughout the Midwest.

ADMINISTRATION BLDG.

At the present time Gibault School is licensed for no more than 104 residents. Although a few placements are still accepted from other states, most of Gibault's boys come from Indiana.

NEW SWIMMING POOL

The rapid increase in number of students necessitated an accompanying expansion of professional staff and facilities. The original Gibault School building (the former Smith home) has now become a sprawling campus consisting of four new residence halls, two classroom buildings, two gymnasiums, a chapel, an administration building, a Program and Development Center, a Counseling Center, a maintenance building and a chaplain's residence. Gibault also owns and operates a group home located in the city of Terre Haute as part of its transition program.

MAINTENANCE BLDG.

This continuing expansion has been possible because of the generosity of Gibault's sponsors, the Indiana Knights of Columbus, as well as the kindness of the many people who are part of Gibault's donor family of friends - thousands of people who care deeply about the children Gibault is dedicated to serve.

SHERER HALL

Besides the sizeable growth of staff and facilities described above, the Gibault treatment program for troubled and delinquent youth has also undergone steady improvement in quality and effectiveness . . .

RENOVATED LIBRARY

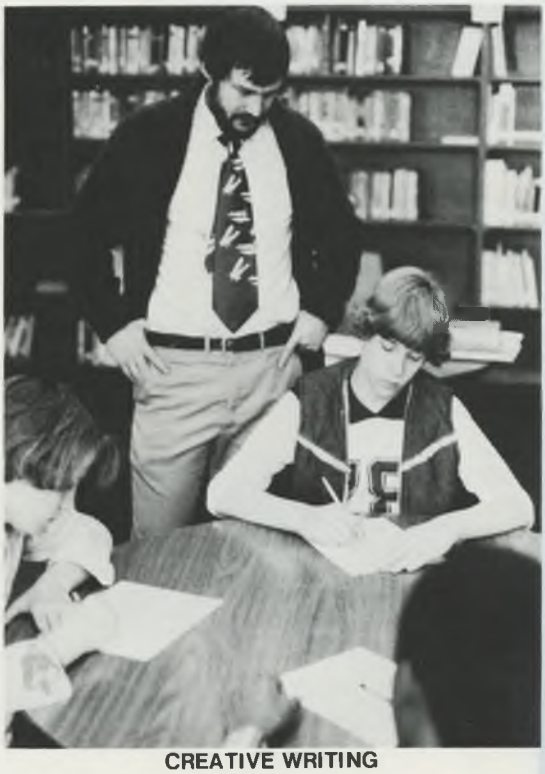
ART CLASS

our program today. . .

For the past 60 years the Gibault treatment program for troubled and delinquent boys has been growing and improving. This now-famous program, which has benefitted almost 5,500 boys, has always been guided by the Gibault philosophy, a philosophy rooted in a Christian, reality-oriented milieu approach to child-caring.

The goal of the program is to help each boy make those changes in his life which are necessary to turn him from negative or delinquent behavior toward morally and socially acceptable behavior. The pictures on the next several pages illustrate some of the many facets of that program in action.

The Gibault treatment program has five major components: 1) Moral Training and Spiritual Development; 2) Group Living; 3) Education; 4) Counseling and Social Services; and 5) Transition. Each of these components is served by a separate department and professional staff; and



CREATIVE WRITING

CHAPEL TAPESTRY

FLAG FOOTBALL

HALLOWEEN CREATIVITY

each is essential to the successful operation of the total treatment program.

As a boy begins his one-year stay at Gibault he soon discovers certain key elements which are common to all of the five components listed above:

a) a CHILD-CENTERED program. Our boys are the focal point of our entire program. Every ounce of staff energy is directed toward helping our boys help themselves. We believe in and support childrens' rights. We also believe in and support the idea that each individual has the right and duty to make a positive contribution to society.

b) a strong emphasis on MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. Gibault boys are constantly reminded of the "rights and wrongs", the "do's and don't's", and the acceptable and unacceptable behaviors of our society. Each boy is taught that he alone is ultimately responsible for his own choices and behavior. (to page 9)

CAMPUS AERIAL - 1965
1920's "FUTURISTIC PLAN"
our campus today

SUMMER CAMP

BIOLOGY

SPECIAL OUTINGS

MUSIC CLASS

c) a highly STRUCTURED ENVIRONMENT. The Gibault program includes a regular schedule of required activities and events as well as supervised free time, all of which are designed to help our boys learn the positive benefits of imposed and self-discipline.

d) INDIVIDUALIZATION. Thanks to the flexibility of the Gibault program, our boys are treated as unique individuals with their own strengths and weaknesses. Each boy has his own personal treatment plan which is regularly reviewed and adjusted by a team of staff professionals.

e) EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALISM. Each department at Gibault School is staffed by highly trained, experienced professionals. Vacant staff positions are filled only with individuals whose academic and work experiences best fit our boys' needs. Staff members are selected with the thought that a top-notch program must have a top-notch staff.

RECREATION

GAMES NITE

SOCCER

PERSONAL COUNSELING

CLASS PROJECTS

VISITING ARTISTS

HALLOWEEN

f) wide-ranging DIVERSITY. Pre-teen and teenage boys have many different legitimate interests and needs. The Gibault program is designed to stimulate and meet as many of these interests and needs as possible.

g) a SAFE ENVIRONMENT. The beautiful Gibault campus is a safe place for our boys to make necessary changes in their lives. Most of our boys have experienced serious abuse and neglect in their young lives. For them, a secure and caring environment is an essential prerequisite to change.

Many good things have been written and said about the Gibault program. And many more words would be necessary to describe the entire program in detail. But one short, simple phrase captures the entire Gibault program in a nutshell: Gibault School helps the **total** troubled and delinquent child.

WALSH (MARTIN BEFORE)

RENOVATION IN PROGRESS

MARTIN CAREER CENTER - 1981

dreams for the future. . .

Gibault School was only a dream back in 1909. In 1921 that dream began to come true. Today, 60 years later, it is still becoming a reality.

Why does this dream still continue? Because Gibault's original purpose was to provide the best possible care and treatment for troubled and delinquent youth. And that can only happen as long as growth and improvement continues.

We are always searching for more effective and efficient ways to help the boys in our care. This search necessitates change; but it doesn't mean changing **everything.** Our growth policy is simple: we keep the Old that works; we add the New that can help the Old work better; we discard what is no longer useful.

One example of this can be found in our present capital improvement program. Several years ago we decided that our two oldest buildings, Walsh and Alerding Halls, are basically sound structures. They didn't need to be replaced; but they did need remodeling.

We began with the Walsh building. We desperately needed more space for our vocational education programs. And we also needed a building that was more energy efficient.

So the Walsh building has now been transformed into the new Martin Career Center - and our vocational education classes now have the kind of facility necessary to provide the best learning environment for our boys. The entire Martin Center project took less than two years to complete because of the generosity of our donor family of friends - kind people who believe our boys deserve a chance, just like our motto says.

We have now shifted our attention to Alerding Hall - a much larger and older building. The remodeling of Alerding will be more of a challenge to our architect. But the result will be another energy efficient building which will benefit our highly specialized education program. Best of all, the cost of remodeling will be less than half that of a new building!!

ALERDING TODAY

ALERDING TOP FLOOR (BEFORE REMODELING)

Behind the scenes. . .

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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The success of leading non-profit organizations can generally be traced back to the dedication and commitment of those volunteers who give freely of their time, talents, and money. Gibault School is fortunate to be supported by four such groups: the Indiana Knights of Columbus, Gibault's principal sponsors; our Board of Trustees; the Gibault Development Council; and our Donor Family of Friends.

After 60 years the Indiana Knights of Columbus continue to affirm their deep interest in - and support of - their school. They are joined by Gibault's many donor friends who repeatedly show their caring and concern for Gibault's boys through their generous donations.

The Gibault Board of Trustees spends many long hours deliberating the important business and administrative matters which are such a critical part of Gibault School's success.

Also very significant is the contribution of Gibault's Development Council. These successful businessmen and community leaders believe in the work of Gibault School and lend their considerable influence to Gibault's ongoing capital improvement program. Founded under the inspired leadership of the late Mr. Forrest Sherer, the Development Council's value to Gibault School has been, and will continue to be, immeasurable.

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Excellence in Child-Caring Since 1921